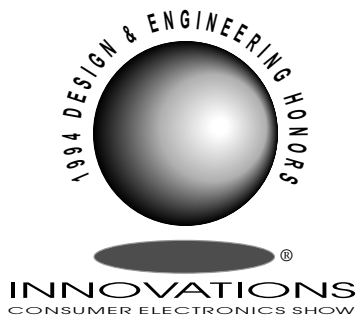




# THIEL

Model CS1.5  
*Coherent  
Source*<sup>®</sup>  
loudspeaker  
system

## OWNER INFORMATION



The AudioAdventure™

TOP TEN

Number

1

FINDS



1997

Speaker of the Year

Congratulations on your purchase of the THIEL model CS1.5 loudspeaker system. It is the result of a dedicated effort to provide very accurate music reproduction. We have used only the highest quality components and taken great care in its construction. Properly set up and used with good associated equipment, the CS1.5s will provide you with a great deal of musical enjoyment for many years.

## **SPEAKER PLACEMENT**

*All aspects of speaker placement are dependent on the particular room. Since every room is different, no hard rules can be given, and experimentation is necessary to achieve the best results.*

The CS1.5s are relatively noncritical to room placement and will provide good results from almost anywhere. However, here are some guidelines to help you achieve the best sound from your speakers. Speaker placement will affect the accuracy of timbre, spatial performance, and bass performance.

**Distance from walls:** THIEL speakers, and most others, sound best if they are placed well away from all walls. Such placement optimizes imaging and depth, and musical timbres are reproduced with the least coloration because it allows the initial sound coming from the speaker to be distinctly separated in time from the secondary sound of wall reflections. If reflections are heard too quickly after the primary sound, your brain tends to interpret them as part of the initial sound, causing the perceived timbre to be altered and the spatial characteristics to be confused.

If you experiment, you will notice a major improvement in openness when the speakers are even two feet from the rear wall instead of one. We like to see the speakers three feet from the rear wall and five feet from the side wall. Also, it is not desirable for large objects to be placed near the speakers since these will also be a source of unwanted early reflections that reduce imaging accuracy.

**Spacing:** Because of their very wide, even dispersion of energy, THIEL speakers should usually be placed farther apart than most. Optimum imaging is usually achieved when the speakers and the listener form an equilateral triangle, although this will depend on the width of the room—a narrow room will require closer placement. If the speakers are too far apart for a given environment, there will tend to be a “hole” in the middle of the sound stage; if they are too close together, the image will be compressed and will not achieve optimum width.

**Aiming:** We usually prefer the imaging obtained when the speakers are pointed straight ahead rather than pointing toward the listener. This placement produces the largest, most natural soundstage. However, toeing the speakers in somewhat may produce more specific placements of instruments. Also, if it is not possible to get the speakers far enough away from the side walls, a toed-in position can be helpful to reduce the strength of wall reflections.

**Bass:** Bass response is also affected by speaker placement. In general, when a speaker is close to a wall the bass response is stronger and placing a speaker in a corner will make it even more so. In order to achieve properly balanced bass, it is necessary for the speaker to be used in the environment for which it was designed. THIEL speakers are designed to provide accurate bass when positioned away from all walls—the same position that provides the best imaging.

**Listener position:** The CS1.5s provide broad dispersion of energy at all frequencies and therefore provide good results throughout a large listening area. Best imaging is provided for a listener centered in front of the speakers. Optimum phase and time alignment is provided only for a seated listener who is six or more feet away from the speakers.

## CONNECTING THE SPEAKERS

The CS1.5's input terminals are located on the back of the speaker at the base. For proper performance, it is essential that both speakers in a stereo system be wired in the same polarity. The speaker's input terminals are color coded to facilitate this. The wire connected to the red input terminal of each speaker should connect to the respective positive output terminals of the amplifier; the wire connected to the black input terminal of each speaker should be connected to the respective negative output terminals of the amplifier. *Make sure that all connections are tight.*

The speakers should be connected to the amplifier with high quality cable to insure minimal loss of power and proper control by the amplifier. If the speakers are being connected to a vacuum tube amplifier with various impedance taps, the 4 ohm tap will probably give the best results.

If the amplifier has a speaker fuse or if a fuse is used in line to the speakers, we recommend a value of 2 amps of the normal blow type (type 3AG-2 amp). Although fuses offer some protection, they do not necessarily protect the speaker against all types of overload and also introduce audible degradation of the signal.

Due to European CE regulations that do not permit banana plug type loudspeaker connections, we ship THIEL speakers with removable plugs installed in the ends of the binding posts. If you wish to use banana plug type connections, you may remove the plastic plug inserted into the end of each plastic binding post cap. To remove the plugs, completely remove the two post caps by turning them counter-clockwise with a ½-inch nut driver or wrench until the caps come off the threaded post. Using a small screwdriver or similar tool, push the plug out from the bottom of the cap. Reinstall the plastic caps on the threaded posts. (Note: You may wish to modify the plastic binding posts caps one at a time to insure that the properly colored cap is reinstalled on the correct post.)

## STABILIZER PINS

Speakers positioned on a soft surface such as carpeting are able to rock back and forth slightly and will vibrate in reaction to those forces the speaker generates to move the driver diaphragms. (Every action has an equal and opposite reaction.) This motion of the speaker causes a loss of musical information and reduces the clarity of the music.

In order to eliminate this effect, the THIEL CS1.5 can be used with the provided stabilizer pins. The stabilizer pins are pushed into three sockets in the base of each speaker. The pin point penetrates the carpet and allows the speaker to rest firmly on the floor. The three pins provide a stable foundation which eliminates some obscuring of information and produces a cleaner, more articulate sound. No pins are required when placing the speakers on hard or smooth surfaces.

There are some applications where the stabilizer pins will not bring an improvement in sound but may actually make it worse. This situation occurs when the floor itself is not rigid and therefore vibrates when connected to the speakers via the stabilizer pins. We encourage you to experiment to determine for yourself whether or not this is the case.

To insert the pins, tilt the speaker forward and push the two back pins fully into the 1" deep holes located in each back corner of the base. Then rock the speaker backward and insert the front pin. Finally, press firmly on the top of the speaker with a slight rocking motion until the pins penetrate the carpet completely. To check that the pins are firmly seated, lightly tap the back and side of the speaker. There should be no movement and the speaker should feel solidly in place.

If the speaker is moved with the pins in place, care should be taken to lift the speaker straight upward until all the pins have cleared the carpet. Also, tilting the speaker so its weight is resting on any single pin can damage the speaker's wood base.

***Please be cautioned that the pointed pins can be dangerous if not used with care. They can cause small dents in hardwood floors and it is possible to damage carpets if the speakers are moved incorrectly with the pins in place.***

## ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT

The CS1.5 is a very high quality sound reproducer and will benefit from use with very good associated equipment. Since it is extremely accurate, it will reveal sources of distortion generated elsewhere in the system. For example, distortion resulting from poor recordings or inferior electronics will be reproduced accurately. Also, the quality of the interconnect cables and speaker cables will significantly effect the performance of the system.

## POWER REQUIREMENTS

It is important to have enough power to play at the level you desire without distortion. If high sound levels are desired, the CS1.5s are designed to be used with amplifiers rated up to 150 watts per channel. If you play the speakers more loudly than the volume the amplifier can cleanly produce, the amplifier will produce overload (clipping) distortion. The sound will become compressed, strained, and in extreme cases, obviously distorted. This distortion is actually non-musical *additional energy* that can damage speakers in extreme cases.

Keep in mind that sound *quality* is usually much more important than sound *quantity*. There can be large differences in the sonic performance of two amplifiers of equal power, and this is more important than large differences in power. Most everyone will be happier with a 50 watt amplifier of high sonic quality than with a 100 watt amplifier of mediocre sonic quality. For this reason, we feel there is no substitute for listening to make your amplifier decision.

The question “how much power do I need?” does not have the simple answer most people expect because it is not determined only by the loudspeaker’s efficiency, but also by the volume desired and the size of the room. If all three factors are average, about 50 watts per channel is required. Each factor can raise or lower this amount by about three times.

1) Usually, people who “don’t like music loud” can decrease their power to about one-half. Also, people who like music loud should increase their power by 2 times or more. Most people fall within a normal range.

2) A speaker with a low efficiency of 84dB/W-m will require twice the power of an average 87dB/W-m speaker and one with a high rating of 90dB/W-m will require only half the power of an average speaker. Usually, high efficiency can be obtained only by trading off sonic quality—there are very few speakers that provide a very high level of both. The CS1.5 is of average efficiency (87dB) and therefore requires a normal amount of power.

3) A small room will need less power for a given loudness level than a large room. A very small room of 1000 cu ft (11' x 11' with an 8' ceiling) will require about half the power of an average size room. A large room of 6000 cu ft (20' x 30' with a 10' ceiling) will require twice the average power. If the listening room is connected to another room by a large open area, the required power will increase, but not by the amount of the combined room volume. If the room has a “dropped” ceiling with light panels, the ceiling will be almost transparent acoustically and the space above the ceiling should be added. If the panels are heavy they will act more like a normal ceiling.

With all this in mind, a person who doesn’t like to play music very loudly and has a small room can get high quality sound with as little as 20 watts whereas a person who sometimes likes to play loudly and has a large room may need 150 watts.

## GRILLE

The grille on the CS1.5 is designed as an integral part of the system to reduce unwanted diffraction effects. Therefore, it must remain in place for proper operation. If you do need to remove the grille, pull the bottom of the grille frame away from the speaker an inch or so and then pull the top of the grille forward to remove it.

The grilles can be cleaned of dust by using an upholstery attachment of a vacuum cleaner.

## CABINET FINISH CARE

THIEL wood cabinets possess a high quality lacquer finish that is both beautiful and durable. However, any wood finish can be damaged by excessive moisture, dryness, or direct sunlight. When cleaning your speakers, avoid using oils, waxes, or polishes that contain silicone, such as Pledge or Johnson’s. We recommend using Endust. Non-wood laminate cabinets may be cleaned with a glass-type cleaner and a soft cloth.

## SERVICE

If your system requires service, contact your authorized THIEL dealer. If you need to contact THIEL, service information and technical support is available at (606) 254-9427, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, or via e-mail at [service@thielaudio.com](mailto:service@thielaudio.com).

## CS1.5 SPECIFICATIONS

<b>Bandwidth (-3dB)</b>	42 Hz-22 kHz
<b>Amplitude Response</b>	42 Hz-22 kHz $\pm 3$ dB
<b>Phase Response</b>	Minimum $\pm 10^\circ$
<b>Sensitivity</b>	86 dB@2.8 V-1m
<b>Impedance</b>	4 ohms (3 ohms minimum)
<b>Recommended Power</b>	50-150 watts
<b>Size</b>	8.5" W x 11" D x 33" H
<b>Weight</b>	42 pounds

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### We Want You Listening For A Lifetime

Used wisely, your new sound equipment will provide a lifetime of enjoyment. Since hearing damage from loud noise is often undetectable until it is too late, THIEL and the Electronics Industries Association's Consumer Electronics Group recommend you avoid prolonged exposure to excessive noise. Depending on room size and amplifier power, some home audio systems can reach sound pressure levels in excess of 95 decibels with peaks of over a 105 decibels. For your protection, the list below identifies sound levels for various noises.

#### Decibel

##### Level   Example

30	Quiet library, soft whispers
40	Living room, refrigerator, bedroom away from traffic
50	Light traffic, normal conversation, quiet office
60	Air conditioner at 20 feet, sewing machine
70	Vacuum cleaner, hair dryer, noisy restaurant
80	Average city traffic, garbage disposals, alarm clock at two feet

#### The Following Noises Can Be Dangerous Under Constant Exposure

90	Subway, motorcycle, truck traffic, lawn mower
100	Garbage truck, chain saw, pneumatic drill
120	Rock concert in front of speakers, thunderclap
140	Gunshot blast, jet plane
150	Rocket launching pad

Information courtesy of the Deafness  
Research Foundation and the EIA.



## LIMITED WARRANTY

THIEL warrants every THIEL model CS1.5 system against defects in materials and workmanship to the original owner for a period of ten years from the date of purchase. THIEL will, at no charge, replace any defective part and make any repairs necessary to ensure its proper performance when the defective unit is returned to us postpaid.

This warranty does not cover damage due to accident or abuse and is void if the unit has been tampered with.

This warranty is automatic and no registration is required. This warranty gives you specific legal rights. You may also have other rights which are particular to your state.

The following information is for your records.

Serial Numbers\_\_\_\_\_

Purchase Date\_\_\_\_\_

Purchased From\_\_\_\_\_



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